

## Iyanbito Chapter

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1980 Census:

852

1990 Census:

969

2000 Census:

1,029

*Estimated land size:* 29,136.45 Acres*Land Management District :* 16**GOVERNMENT***Number of Chapter NNC delegate(s):* 1*Delegate(s) shared with:*

Pinedale

*Number of police officer(s):* 0*Navajo Police district office covering Chapter :*

Crownpont District

*Tribal offices that provide services within Chapter :*

Child Development

Department of Behavioral Health

Community Health Representative

Adult In-Home Care

Department of Employment and Training

Navajo Tribal Utility Authority

Division of Social Services

Law Enforcement

Community Services Program

Home Care Option (Elderly)

**MEDICAL***Hospital(s) & clinic(s) where most Chapter people go:*HospitalTown

Gallup Indian Medical Center

Gallup, NM

Rehoboth McKinley Christian Hosp.

Gallup, NM

ClinicTown

Ft. Wingate Dental Clinic

Ft. Wingate, NM

**EDUCATION***Total enrollment by school (Fall of 2003):*SchoolEnrolled

Perea Head Start 20

Iyanbito Head Start 17

**COMMUNICATIONS***Regular TV reception; stations received:*Call Letters Town

KOAT Albuquerque, NM

KNME Albuquerque, NM

KOB Albuquerque, NM

*Clear AM radio stations received:*

<u>Call Letters</u>	<u>Town</u>
KGAK	Gallup, NM
KYVA	Gallup, NM
KTNN	Window Rock, AZ

*Clear FM radio stations received:*

<u>Call Letters</u>	<u>Town</u>
KKOR	Gallup, NM
KQNM	Gallup, NM
KXTC	Gallup, NM

*Newspaper received within the Chapter :*

<u>Name of Paper</u>	<u>Town</u>
The Independent	Gallup, NM
Navajo Times	Window Rock, AZ

**CIVIC**

*Churches:*

<u>Name of Church</u>	<u>Est'd Membership</u>
Pentecostal Church	80
Baptist Church	25

*Indigenous:*

Traditional Navajo Religion  
Native American Church

*Active community organizations:*

Save the Children Federation

**COMMERCIAL** None

**TRANSPORTATION**

*Paved roads through the chapter area:*

County Road 27

*Distances to:*

Agency: Crownpoint	47 miles
Window Rock	45 miles
Gallup, NM	20 miles

**MAJOR EMPLOYERS**

<u>No. of</u>	<u>Name of Employer</u>	<u>Employees</u>
Navajo Nation	13	
Home Care Option	3	

**LOCAL NATURAL RESOURCES**

Sand and Gravel  
Firewood

**COMMUNITY/COOPERATIVE FARMING**None

**BRIEF OVERVIEW OF CHAPTER**

The Iyanbito Community was settled by Navajo families from different parts of the reservation to work at the Fort Wingate Army Depot during World Wars I and II. Some of the residents returned to their respective areas, but others chose to remain in Iyanbito. Thom Thomas was one of the founding leaders of the community. He was instrumental in organizing the local government as well as building the first chapter house.

IYANBITO CHAPTER (Continued)

The name "Ayánnì bitó" means "Buffalo's water" (or springs) which came from a time when buffalo herds used to gather at a watering hole located east of the present chapter site.

Iyanbito is one of the communities with a small land base and an increasing population demands. The land is all tribal trust, making it easier to develop, but is constrained by archaeological findings. The community is situated near West Rio Puerco and close to Anasazi sites.

Recently, the chapter secured funds for water development, archaeological clearance on the chapter's road system, and withdrew 60 acres for new housing under the Navajo Housing Authority. Iyanbito set precedence in acquiring funding from the Farmers Home Administration for bathroom additions.

The community is actively involved in the reclamation of the former Ft. Wingate Army Depot. Ancestors of community residents were relocated from the depot land area to the current community of Iyanbito. Prior to this forced move and US military possession, they were promised they would be allowed to return "after the war was over." The Navajo people want the return of these lands. During the conflict with the United States in the second half of the 1800's, the original Fort Wingate was established as an "Indian Post" to eliminate Navajo raiding parties. With continued skirmishes and failed "Navajo treaties", Kit Carson set out his "scorched-earth" policy against the Navajos and rounded up those who surrendered at Fort Wingate before being exiled to Fort Sumner. Many Navajos lost their lives trying to protect their homeland, many were brutally massacred to bring about a Navajo defeat; many lives for actions of only a few Navajo renegades. The United States government needed to return these lands back to the Navajo people in honor of peace, misguided harm, and back to the rightful owner.

In late 1996 and early 1997, the Navajo Nation government showed some commitment to the Zuni Tribal Council to enter in some accommodations agreement to divide up the military reservation. The Zunis have an interest in the south part, or the high areas of the land area. There had been over the last half decade every local government, including the City of Gallup to have a piece of the land. The federal government's intention, as it seems finally convinced, the subject area is Navajo-Zuni country.

*This Chapter information was updated by:*

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